



WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 / Virtual Online Meeting

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni
Andre Bouchard
Ginger Ewing
Representative Carolyn Eslick
Dr. Kelvin Frank
Wesley Jessup
Linley Logan
Lee Lyttle
Jasmine Mahmoud
Diane Martindale, Chair
Joan McBride
Monica Miller
Catherine Nueva España
Faaluaina Pritchard
Justin Raffa, First Vice Chair
Rebecca Redshaw
Charlie Robin
Senator Lisa Wellman
Sheree Wen
Representative Sharon Wylie
Senator Hans Zeiger

Commissioners Absent

Rosanna Sharpe, Second Vice Chair
Judy Tuohy

Call to Order

Raffa, ArtsWA Board 1st Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Roll was called to verify a quorum was present. Raffa asked for a MOTION to approve the agenda; the motion was made by McBride, seconded by Pritchard, and passed unanimously.

Guest Cay Lane, Seattle University, introduced herself. She is a student of Jasmine Mahmoud and is sitting in on today's board meeting as part of her Governance course.

Rules for Public Comment

The public is welcome to attend ArtsWA board meetings. Comments will only be accepted during the designated public comment period. Today, and on future agendas, there will be room for public comment at the end of the meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per guest and it is not a discussion period.

ArtsWA Staff Present

Glenda Cariño, Communications Manager
Miguel Guillén, Program Manager, Grants to Organizations
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Janae Huber, Collections Manager
Tamar Krames, Arts in Education Program Manager
Leslie Pope, Executive Assistant
Annette Roth, Program Manager, Creative Districts
Alexis Sarah, Arts in Early Learning Project Manager
Mike Sweney, Art in Public Places Program Manager
Terry West, Deputy Director

Guests & Speakers

David Foster, Foster Government Relations
Cay Lane, Seattle University
Doug Levy, Outcomes by Levy, LLC
TVW

Chairs Report

Raffa referred the Board to Martindale's report (*packet p. 1*). He asked that commissioners mark dates from the 2021 Meeting Schedule and Locations (*packet p. 2*) on their calendars. Currently, there are no plans to meet in-person. Plans for Arts, Heritage and Science Day are not yet known. If pandemic conditions improve, one or more of the meetings listed for 2021 might be shifted to in-person meetings, budget permitting.

Director's Report

Hanan reviewed her report (*packet pp. 3-11*). The most recent forecast shows an increase in state revenue, but there is still a large gap in the state budget. Another forecast is expected this month. The state is also waiting to see whether the federal government will provide additional financial support. ArtsWA identified budget reductions as requested but is waiting to see whether they will be implemented. In the next biennium, staff may be required to take one furlough day each month for the entire two years.

It is expected that the 2021 Legislative Session will be operated virtually. This may limit the amount of business legislators can conduct and conclude during the session, mostly due to technology issues.

Hanan has had many speaking engagements on reopening plans and strategies on how the arts constituency can survive the economic impact of the pandemic.

Applications for the Washington State Poet Laureate are being accepted. The program was updated to sharpen its focus on equity and inclusion, reduce the demands of the position due to time and budget constraints, and increase accessibility to poets who are not formally published, but are successful in their field, including spoken word poets. Additional compensation will be requested from host organizations, if they are able to contribute. Geographic and racial diversity are priorities in the selection process.

Hanan thanked Raffa, Bouchard, Robin, and Nueva España who actively participated in the development process of reopening plans for various segments of the arts community, including museums, galleries, performing arts centers, for dance, and choir and theater.

Through the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) Regional Arts Resilience Fund, WESTAF administered the re-granting of over \$1.7 million in the fall of 2020. They approved a roster of 39 organizations recommended for funding. WESTAF distributed large grants, including grants to Asia Pacific Cultural Center and Terrain Programs. Hanan congratulated Pritchard and Ewing for running exemplary organizations.

Martindale, Board Chair, joined the meeting after resolving technical difficulties, and resumed overseeing the meeting.

Land Acknowledgement

Dr. Kelvin Frank gave the land acknowledgement once his technical difficulties were resolved. He began by saying a few welcoming words in the Cree language, and acknowledged the people of this land, the Coastal Salish people, past and present.

2020-21 Biennium 5th Quarter Report

This report (*packet pp. 12-19*) is for information only; it does not require a motion. The budget is on track and the narrative provides detail on expenditures by program. The report is divided into the different programs and operations of the agency.

Strategic Plan Dashboard Update

Hanan reviewed the Dashboard (*packet pp. 20*). The dashboard measures ArtsWA's progress on various metrics for agency strategic plan goals. The average number of days for the installation of artworks is a new metric, and AIPP is performing well. She reminded commissioners to inform ArtsWA when they meet with legislators, so that benchmark can be accurately measured.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included:

- Minutes of August 5, 2020 Board Meeting (*packet pp. 21-29*)
- Minutes of October 15, 2020 Board Meeting (*packet pp. 30-33*)

A MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Pritchard and seconded by Jessup. It passed unanimously with no changes to the meeting minutes and no conflicts of interest, abstentions or recusals.

Arts in Education-Approve Creative Start Regional Grants–FY 2021

Sarah, Arts in Early Learning Project Manager, reviewed grant panel recommendations for Creative Start (*packet pp. 34-35*). This program just launched in 2020. The program seeks to close the opportunity gap by increasing access to culturally responsive arts integration practices in early learning settings, ages 3-8. The grants benefit a multi-educational site, such as a school district or educational service district, versus a single school.

A MOTION that the ArtsWA Board approve the panel recommendations for the Creative Start Regional Grants FY 2021, for a total of \$113,750, was made by McBride, seconded by Avni, and passed with no conflicts of interest, abstentions or recusals.

CARES 2.0

Guillén presented panel commendations for the CARES 2.0 grants (*handout*). This third CARES grant program was run by the entire Community Investments team of five staff, with additional staffing help, because this program needed to be completed within a very short timeframe. The goal was to award grants up to \$10,000, although there were not enough funds to provide the full award amount to everyone. Applications were evaluated

on the financial need of arts and cultural organizations, with focus on youth programming and diverse and underserved communities. Commissioners provided a great deal of support serving on panels and recommending community members to also serve on the panels and read applications.

Senator Wellman asked whether there is a way to track the impact of this funding and how it is spent, such as extending employment or paying rent. Guillén said all grant recipients are required to submit a final report with an explanation of how the funds were spent.

Robin asked for an explanation of grant caps per region. Guillén said the speed with which this grant had to be completed was unprecedented. There is a little bit of imperfection in the process, but he focused his efforts to follow the intentions of the panelists in assigning grant awards. Hanan said it was an incredibly heavy lift to bring this grant program to a conclusion.

Wen asked if arts in education organizations were included in the funded organizations. Guillén and Hanan explained that there probably are arts in education organizations within the funded list, but this grant process was not focused on arts in education specifically, but on youth programming and diverse populations within the arts and culture environment.

Pritchard was impressed by the high number of applications in the process. Hanan said that when there is more money to be awarded, and the anticipated grant award amounts are higher, more organizations are likely to apply. Robin said that because of the desperate environment, there were many applications that stretched the definition of arts, simply because money is needed for all organizations to survive this pandemic environment. Guillén said this pandemic has exposed more organizations that engage in arts programming, which will expand ArtsWA's reach in the future.

Mahmoud said she was honored to serve on this panel, which was very thoughtful process. She asked whether these grantees will become part of future contact lists for grant opportunities. Guillén affirmed they will be part of future contacts, and he is looking forward to working with this expanded and new constituency in the future.

Martindale asked about the timing of notifying organizations within commissioner constituent regions. Guillén said it is best that communication come from ArtsWA first, particularly when there are organizations that are not funded. Hanan confirmed with commissioners that an email will be sent to the Board when it is appropriate to congratulate their constituents, after agency notification is completed. This is true of all grant programs. After the Board approves or ratifies grants, ArtsWA needs time to contact grant applicants first, particularly for non-funded organizations, out of respect for the applicants. The process is usually complete within a few days of the Board meeting.

Hanan asked commissioners to mention to legislators how ArtsWA handled this process quickly and efficiently. Emphasize how the agency is knowledgeable and able to distribute funds through grants programs successfully.

Martindale called for conflicts of interest, which involve a familiar or fiduciary association to any applicants. Conflicts of Interest were identified as follows:

Board Commissioner	Conflicts of Interest
Andre Bouchard	Terrain Programs, Indigenous Performance Productions, WA Center for Performing Arts
Ginger Ewing	Terrain Programs
Wes Jessup	Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture
Jasmine Mahmoud	TeenTix, On the Boards, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theater
Monica Miller	Gallery One
Catherine Nueva España	Khambatta Dance Company, Velocity Dance Center
Faaluaina Pritchard	Asia Pacific Cultural Center
Justin Raffa	Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, Yakima Symphony Orchestra
Charlie Robin	The Capitol Theatre Committee
Sheree Wen	SIFF

A MOTION that the Board approve funding recommendations for ArtsWA CARES Act Relief Grants–Fall 2020 totaling \$1,444,992.20 and the list of non-funded applications, was made by Representative Eslick and seconded by Senator Wellman.

Following Roberts Rules of Order, only commissioners without conflicts of interest voted. The MOTION passed unanimously, with no abstentions and 11 conflicts of interest.

Advocacy Session

Preview of the 2021 Legislative Session

Linley Logan, Advocacy Committee Chair, introduced special guests Doug Levy, Outcomes by Levy, and David Foster. They are lobbyists for WESTAF, a regional organization that supports 13 state arts organizations including ArtsWA and Washington State. ArtsWA cannot pay for lobbyists directly, and the agency thanks WESTAF for providing this support. Levy and Foster work with Humanities Washington and ArtsWA to provide assistance with state government affairs, lobbying, and funding pursuits. Hanan said Levy and Foster have a depth of knowledge that has been very helpful in guiding staff and commissioners.

Levy said the 2021 Legislative Session will be a new experience for everyone, because it will be virtual for the first time, due to the pandemic. This will be a difficult session due to the \$4.5 billion shortfall because of covid-19, in addition to huge problems such as mental health and homelessness. The state's transportation revenues have shrunk due to significantly reduced travel that has reduced revenues from the gasoline tax. It is an extremely difficult environment for legislators this year. The capital budget, which operates on debt capacity by selling bonds, will be the main budget that legislators can use to stimulate jobs and the economy. This reality positions requests such as repair of the SunDome within the realm of possibility. On the operating budget side, it will be extremely more difficult to find funds for extra requests. The balance of power in the Senate and House appears to remain with Democrats, but final election results are still being tabulated. Both Levy and Foster are waiting for more instructions on how this session will work. The members might have different approaches to how they meet with constituents, while most of the chamber work will be done virtually.

Foster said recent legislative committee meetings have shown that technology issues will impact the work and productivity of the Legislature. However, there is the potential for more interaction with legislators through on-line testimony because less travel is involved with virtual meetings. The Governor will publish his budget in December, which will inform legislators as they begin their work in January.

Representative Wylie said experience with meetings held in the interim show that many more people are attending, because constituents have more access virtually than they do if they must travel to Olympia. Be mindful that if commissioners or staff give testimony, there will be many more people watching the proceedings, which could provide a greater opportunity for educating the public on the value and impact of the arts, the intersectionality of the arts with the economy and education, and the work accomplished by ArtsWA. This is unprecedented, and while she will learn from this experience, she does miss meeting in person.

Levy and Foster will look for opportunities for ArtsWA board members to sign up to provide testimony online.

Senator Wellman explained that Zoom and Teams will be used. Be aware that there are public records implications for these meetings. Public committee meetings will be held on Zoom, because it is readily available to constituents. There are no location boundaries for people giving testimony, so the options for calling on experts and individuals from around the nation and the world are open to legislators. Twenty people can be on the floor in the Senate, although many legislators do not plan to attend in person. More is happening during the interim period than ever before, because of anticipating of how much time will be taken up with committee meetings during session. Broadband availability and reliability throughout the State is a high priority, because of its use in education and in tele-health.

Senator Wellman emphasized that the Department of Health has warned that gathering for the holidays could contribute significantly to state hospitals becoming overwhelmed at the beginning of the year. She encouraged everyone to continue to follow safe practices such as mask wearing and social distancing.

Senator Wellman acknowledged that the arts and hospitality industries have been significantly impacted by the pandemic, since both industries rely on in-person interactions. People who work in the arts often also work in restaurants, so they have been doubly impacted. She is working on a program with T-Mobile/Sprint to address how young musicians can build their brand. She also believes there is an opportunity in Washington to bring together online entertainment, technology expertise, and screen writers, actors, and other arts focuses to find new ways of experiencing the arts that have not yet been created, to carry forward into the future. The SunDome project is important to be completed. She is also very excited about the Creative Start program, because of social/emotional development, and the arts is a way for young people to express themselves.

Representative Eslick is on the Capital Budget Committee and is a strong supporter of the SunDome "*Circle of Light*." She truly believes continuing with the arts is very important during the

pandemic, because children are at home, and parents can find ways to fill time with exposure to arts online. She also sits on the Transportation Committee with Representative Wylie, and believes arts play a role in making transportation projects more interesting, such as décor on sound walls. When Representative Eslick operated Grow Washington, artists comprised a majority of the incubation projects she oversaw, to support and grow their retail operations and find venues to sell their product. Many of these artists also received business and operations development training. She is a strong supporter of the Creative Districts program and wants to see this program grow. Expanding broadband access is also very important this session. It appears the House building is too small for most legislators to be in attendance, so the House will operate mostly through virtual meetings. She is concerned about the reliability of Wi-Fi access from her home, but also agrees there are opportunities to be found in using technology. However, she is concerned about the negotiation process, where being present in person is the most successful approach. She will bring the one-pagers to legislators she knows who work on those areas of the budget. Representative Eslick is also impressed by how ArtsWA has grown, not only with staffing, but also in the number and variety of programs being offered to serve our constituents. She also expressed pleasure in working with the diversity of the ArtsWA Board, which is more diverse than most of the committees she serves on as a legislator.

Senator Zeiger said over the last few years, the Senate has been using more remote testimony, but this year it is a requirement to keep everyone safe. He believes technology can be a force for good, and now is a time to explore and innovate using technology. This could be an unprecedented time for Washington citizens to become engaged in the legislative process. To build this experience, it is up to state agencies and other organizations to get people involved because the barriers to civic participation are removed when meetings are held online. He appreciated serving on the ArtsWA Board and supporting the arts and looks forward to continuing to do so on the local level.

Senator Wellman added that there are success stories within the arts community about ways to stay viable during the pandemic. She wants to emphasize what the arts do for people. The Creative Forces program is a powerful healing force for people with brain injury and emotional issues. She is not sure everyone understands that this agency is involved with this program. When she headed up the creative markets for Apple, when the general public could purchase a home computer, she saw how creatives used technology to develop new ways to express their art. She believes showing legislators how the arts are very much alive, and how new ways of doing business are creating success stories for the arts, is important.

Raffa thanked Senator Zeiger for being a key champion for arts issues across the state, and for legislation he has supported. His presence will be missed at ArtsWA.

Senator Zeiger agreed with Senator Wellman, that capital budget funding will be used as an economic driver to help jump-start the economy. We want to ensure proposed projects are ready to go, so that funds can be spent right away during the biennium. It is extremely important to talk with local legislators, who are busy, but they are also more available during the interim. Continue to educate and inform about arts issues around ArtsWA and in the legislators' districts.

Ewing asked board legislators if it is more effective to collaborate on larger arts sector packages versus advocating individually for the arts. Rep. Eslick said the House looks at projects that have broad impact; this might be a time to take that approach. Senator Wellman agreed that large projects may be more successful, because it takes more time to address many small requests. She also encouraged thinking about public-private partnerships to address support for the arts. Private corporations would receive marketing value and the arts would get support. It would be ideal for support that does not draw on state funding. Senator Zeiger said a unified message is important but it is important to remember that legislators are most likely to support things that impact their districts.

Hanan said during the pandemic, ArtsWA has been very collaborative and the partnerships that have formed will bear fruit far into the future.

Report Back Session on Legislative Meetings

Logan asked each commissioner to report back on their legislative meetings during the interim. ArtsWA commissioners can contact legislators directly using email; there is no need to use the website contact form. Foster provided the following link to find direct email addresses: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members>.

Art in Public Places

Year in Review

Sweney, Art in Public Places Program Manager provided an update on acquisitions (*packet p. 44*). The AIPP program was established in 1974 and is funded with 1/2 of 1% of new construction. There are currently approximately 5,000 artworks in the State Art Collection at approximately 1,200 sites throughout the state. Partnerships include K-12 schools, state colleges and universities, and state agencies. All acquired artworks are site responsive. AIPP empowers local committees to make decisions on their artwork, working with an artist they have selected.

Sweney informed the Board of the upcoming Public Artist Roster call, which will open in the spring of 2021. This is a pre-qualified list of U.S. and British Columbia, Canada, based artists that is the primary source for artist selection by local committees. The Roster is valid for 3 to 4 years. For this update, applications will also be accepted via smartphone to increase accessibility. Currently, AIPP is engaged in outreach to artists to inform them of the opportunity. Applications will be accepted May through June 2021, with approval of panel recommendations by the Board at the August 2021 meeting.

SunDome/Circle of Light Project Update

Huber, Collections Manager, provided an update on the assessment and repair of the *Circle of Light*, an artwork in the State Art Collection (*packet p. 45*). The Board worked very hard on the advocacy for phase 1 of its repair during the 2020 Legislative Session. Commissioners will be advocating for phase 2 funding in the 2021 Legislative Session. The *Circle of Light* is mounted on the SunDome, is 880 feet long and surrounds the entire building. The artwork accents the largest existing cast-in-place concrete dome and illuminates the building when sunlight hits the reflectors. The artwork was completed in 1992 and is almost 30 years old.

Phase 1 funded a complete evaluation of what repairs are needed and how much it will cost to do those repairs. The contractor, Architectural Resources Group (ARG), is also the historic preservation team for the Capitol Campus, and is a highly qualified firm. The evaluation found that the sonic weld is failing, adhesion of reflectors to the building is failing, and there is uneven fading of the reflectors. Approximately 50% of the reflectors are failing, and more will continue to fail each year.

The recommendation is to replace all reflectors with new ones and use a different adhesive and weld. The estimated cost is \$508,000, which includes replacement of all reflectors, labor, lifts and scaffolding, and conservation oversight. This will be the amount commissioners will advocate for phase 2 with legislators.

It is better to do the entire project in one phase, especially because of the cost and time involved in mobilizing equipment. This will require full funding.

Announcements

There were no members of the public in attendance, so there was no public comment period.

Martindale asked commissioners to share information on the Public Artist Roster call with their constituents, when Sweney sends out the information. Poetry Out Loud registration closes on November 16, and commissioners are encouraged to share this information. Applications for the Washington State Poet Laureate are now being accepted, which commissioners are asked to promote in their regions.

Martindale adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.